

REMARKS:

This paper is herewith filed in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on October 15, 2008 for the above-captioned U.S. Patent Application. This office action is a rejection of claims 1-7, 9, and 12-37 of the application.

More specifically, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 5-7, 23, 29-31, and 34-37 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornfeld (US5974041) in view of Kenington (US20030132800) and Chethik (US6593827); rejected claims 3-4 and 25-27 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chethik in view of Kornfeld, and further in view of Nguyen (US6148040); rejected claims 9 and 24 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kornfeld in view of Kenington, Chethik, and Porco (US7020215); rejected claims 12-17, 22, and 32-33 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosur (20030152023) in view of Kornfeld, Kenington, and Chethik; and rejected claims 18-19 and 28 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosur in view of Chethik, Kenington, Kornfeld, and Nguyen. The Applicants respectfully address the rejections.

The Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that claims 10-11 and 38-41 are objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowable subject matter.

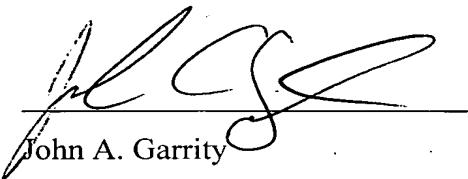
To expedite allowance and without expressly or impliedly admitting that the Applicants agree with the Examiner's rational for rejecting the claims, the Applicants note that allowed claims 10 and 11 have been amended to each include language of base claim 1, allowed claim 38 has been amended to include language of base claim 13, and allowed claims 40 and 41 have been amended to include language of base claim 23. Further, Claims 2-7, 9, 12, and 30 have been amended to depend from claim 10, claims 14-15, 17-19, 22, 32, 39, and 42 have been amended to depend from claim 38, and claims 24-25, 29, and 34 have been amended to depend from claim 40. Claims 7, 10, 12, 17, 22, 30, 32, 38, and 40 have been amended for formalities. Claims 1, 13, and

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36-37 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice. No new matter is added.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner allow all of claims 2-7, 9-12, 14-22, 24-35, and 38-42 now present in the application. Should any unresolved issue remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted:



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1/9/2009

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. BOX 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

1/9/2009
Date

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Name of Person Making Deposit